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SUB 3

20. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is lymphotactin, RANTES, MIP-1-alpha, MCP-1, MCP-4, IL-8, murine KC, murine MIP2, human GCP2, human IP10, fractaline, murine LIX, MIP-1, or secondary lymphoid tissue chemokine SLC.

Please insert the following new claim:

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28. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the M3 protein, or homologue is a coupled protein.

In the specification:

Please amend page 1 of the specification to insert the following text beginning at page 1, line 19:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a set of auto-radiographs of SDS-PAGE analysis, with molecular masses in kDa, from experiments in which soluble chemokine binding activity is produced by MHV68.

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Figure 2 is an auto-radiograph of another SDS-PAGE analysis from an experiment to show binding specificity of the soluble chemokine binding protein encoded by the MHV68 M3 ORF.

Figure 3 is a graph showing binding of [125I] RANTES to test (U937) cells in the presence of different amounts of MHV68-infected cell supernatants expressed as cell equivalents.

Figure 4 is a set of two graphs (4 (a) and 4 (b)) showing binding of MIP-1 alpha and IL-8 to U937 cells respectively.

Figure 5 is an auto-radiograph of SDS-PAGE analysis experiments involving binding of M3 to MIP-1 alpha and IL-8 respectively.

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Figure 6 is a graph showing results of inhibition experiments with M3, cultured cells and RANTES and demonstrates that M3 inhibits RANTES induced calcium flux in human PBMCs in a dose dependent manner.

Figure 7 is a set of two graphs (7(a) and 7(b)). Graph 7(a) shows that M3 inhibits MCP-1 induced migration of THP-1 cells, and graph 7 (b) shows that M3 inhibits IL-8 induced migration of neutrophils.

Figure 8 is a graph showing results of in-vivo experiments for the effect of M3 on inflammatory responses in mice.

REMARKS

Claim 21 is canceled herein, without prejudice to renewal. Claims 17 and 20 are amended herein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Basis for claim amendments

Support for the amending language of claim 17 can be found in the specification at page 1, line 20-21 (for functional homologues). Support for the amending language of claim 20 can be found in the specification at page 10, lines 6-7 (for secondary lymphoid tissue chemokine SLC); page 2, line 22 (for murine LIX), and in original claim 21 for MIP-1 .

Support for new claim 28 can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 7-9 (for coupled M3 proteins).

Arrangement of the specification

The specification was objected to for not providing a "Brief Description of the Drawings." Page 1, has been amended to insert a Brief Description of the Drawings beginning at page 1, line 18.